

## **Moran Successful in Supporting Rural Hospitals**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Jerry Moran's efforts to delay changes to Medicare regulations affecting rural hospitals have proven to be successful. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced, in the agency's outpatient prospective payment system final rule for 2011, that proposed changes to physician supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services will be delayed for one year until a better solution can be reached. This delay will prevent a disruption of critical services for patients in Kansas and across the country.

"The original rule as proposed by CMS was a typical Washington, D.C. proposal that lacked any common sense and an example of how little federal agencies understand rural America," Moran said. "I am glad we were successful in at least delaying that unrealistic and damaging proposal. Now we must continue insisting that CMS adopt a permanent solution that preserves both patient safety and access to important therapy services in our communities."

"CMS' supervision proposal fails to account for the realities of rural health care," said Dennis George, Chief Executive Officer of Coffey County Hospital in Burlington. "The delay is a great step and we will continue to work for a permanent solution because this severe policy threatens the survival of Kansas hospitals. CMS must understand how we operate hospitals in rural America."

Moran is Chairman of the House Rural Health Care Coalition.

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